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# South Peace Arm Stone's Sheep and Woodland Caribou Inventory, March 1994

M. D. Wood
November 1995

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The Peace/Williston Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program is a cooperative venture of BC Hydro and the provincial fish and wildlife management agencies, supported by funding from BC Hydro. The Program was established to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams on the Peace River, and the subsequent creation of the Williston and Dinosaur Reservoirs.

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Website: *www.bchydro.bc.ca/environment/initiatives/pwcp/*

This report has been approved by the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Fish Technical Committee.

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# SOUTH PEACE ARM STONE'S SHEEP AND WOODLAND CARIBOU INVENTORY
MARCH 1994

## INTRODUCTION:

An inventory of wildlife using alpine winter ranges on the south side of the Peace Arm was conducted on March 6, 1994. The primary objective of the survey was to locate Stone's sheep that were transplanted to the Mt. Frank Roy and Mt. Monteith areas in 1990, 1991 and 1993.

## SURVEY CONDITIONS:

The survey was conducted between 11:35 am - 1:00 pm, and 1:15 pm - 1:40 pm. Winds were nil-low. Snow coverage was 100%, with depths ranging from O to 40 cm. It had been about two days since the last snowfall.

## METHODS:

The inventory involved a search of alpine areas on Mt. Bickford, Mt. Monteith, and Mt. Frank Roy. The survey was conducted with a Bell 206 helicopter chartered from Northern Mountain Helicopters from Fort St. John, with pilot Bob Batchelor. The two-person crew (Rob Woods and Rod Backmeyer, B.C. Environment, Fort St. John) searched for, counted, and classified animals. Stone's sheep were classified as adult ewes, Class 1 to Class 4 rams, or lambs. Caribou were unclassified.

## RESULTS:

A total of 7 Stone's sheep and 99 woodland caribou were sighted during the survey (Tables 1 & 2, Figure 1). The sheep were located only on the steep south facing cliffs of Mt. Monteith. One dead female sheep was observed on the cliffs nearby. Mortality signals were received from two of the three radio-collared sheep in the area.

Table 1. Classifications of Stone's sheep observed on Mt. Monteith.

| Map Locn | Class I Ram | Class II Ram | Ewes | Lambs | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| S2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| S3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| S4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 |

Table 2. Numbers and locations of woodland caribou observed during the survey.

| Map Locn | Mtn Range | TOTAL # |
|---|---|---|
| C1 | Mt. Frank Roy | 20 |
| C2 | Mt. Frank Roy | 6 |
| C3 | Mt. Frank Roy | 15 |
| C4 | Mt. Frank Roy | 5 |
| C5 | Mt. Frank Roy | 2 |
| C6 | Mt. Frank Roy | 19 |
| C7 | Mt. Monteith | 2 |
| C8 | Mt. Bickford | 7 |
| C9 | Mt. Bickford | 4 |
| C10 | Mt. Bickford | 3 |
| C11 | Mt. Bickford | 3 |
| C12 | Mt. Bickford | 13 |
| TOTAL | | 99 |

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Winter and/or spring inventories for Stone's sheep in the Mt. Monteith/Mt. Frank Roy area should be continued in the 1994/95 fiscal year. Other alpine ranges including Mt. McAllister, Beattie Peaks, The Monarch, Dokie Ridge and Mt. Boulder should also be surveyed.

2. An evaluation of radio-tracking data from the transplanted sheep since the first transplant in 1990 should be conducted.

45
30
15
ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
FOOTHILLS
MOUNTAINS
ROCHEUSES
MOUNT
WHEELER
MOUNT
COWPER
BATTLESHIP
MOUNTAIN
PEACE
RIVER
MOUNT
JOHNSON
THE
MONARCH
MOUNT
BICKFORD
MOUNT
MINCROSS
FALLS
MOUNTAIN
PYRAMID
PEAK
MOUNT
MURRAY
Pine
Valley
Halfway
River
Peace
River